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EXAMINER

SAVAGE, MATTHEW O

ART UNIT

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DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the limitation of the pipe being provided with a funnel as recited in claim 2 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

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Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The concept of the pipe including a funnel as recited in amended claim 2 is considered new matter.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

On line 2 of claim 26, "the bottom" lacks antecedent basis.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moller et al.

With respect to claims 1 and 17, Moller et al disclose a device for removing impurities from a liquid (see FIG. 2) including a reservoir 70 having a top and a bottom for holding a filtering material 74 at a lower portion thereof and for holding a quantity of liquid in an upper portion thereof, above the filtering material, the quantity of liquid having a free surface adjacent the top of the reservoir; a liquid supply channel 72 opening into the lower portion of the reservoir; a fluid transport channel 86 with an entrance end in the lower portion of the reservoir, facing the bottom of the reservoir, for receiving a turbulent flow of filtering material, the fluid transport channel having an exit end disposed in the upper portion of the reservoir, above the filtering material; a fluid displacement channel for carrying a displacing fluid under positive pressure, for detaching impurities from the filtering material, including a pipe 89 with an exit end positioned proximate the bottom of the reservoir, spaced from and directed toward the entrance end of the fluid transport channel to induce turbulence in filtering material located between the entrance end of the fluid transport channel and the pipe, and transporting filtering material, detached from impurities, along the fluid transport channel under positive pressure so as to exit in the liquid in the upper portion of the reservoir; and an outlet opening 84 in the upper portion of the reservoir capable of drawing off floating impurities at the free surface of the liquid. Moller et al fail to specify the pipe 89 as being positioned at the bottom of the reservoir, however, such a modification would have been obvious in order to optimize the transfer of contaminated media located from bottom of the tank to the top of the tank for cleaning.

Concerning claim 2, Moller et al include a pipe 89 with a funnel (e.g., formed by the bottom of the reservoir) on a side facing toward the entrance end of the fluid transport channel 86 and that flares out in the direction of the entrance end of the fluid transport channel.

Regarding claim 7, Moller et al disclose the bottom of the reservoir as being substantially V-shaped.

As to claim 8, Moller et al disclose the exit end of the fluid transport channel as being directed in an upward direction.

Concerning claim 16, Moller et al disclose the liquid supply channel 72 as having an exit 78 located above the entrance end of the fluid transport channel.

Regarding claim 18, Moller et al disclose the outlet opening 84 as being spaced a predetermined distance below the top of the reservoir.

Regarding claim 19, Moller et al disclose a container 82 coupled to the outlet opening capable of receiving floating impurities, the container being divided into first and second portions by a weir 80 (e.g., outer and inner portions), and a discharge opening 84 in the second portion.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moller et al as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Hjelmner et al.

Regarding claim 15, Moller et al fail to specify a check member spaced from and disposed above the exit end of the fluid transport channel for deflecting the turbulent flow of filtering material exiting the fluid transport channel. Hjelmner et al disclose a check

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member 23 as teach that such an arrangement prevents the escape of filter media from the reservoir. It would have been obvious to have modified the apparatus of Moller et al so as to have included a check member as suggested by Hjelmner et al in order to prevent the escape of filter media from the reservoir.

Claims 20-25 and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 26 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew O. Savage whose telephone number is (571) 272-1146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Matthew O Savage/

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Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797

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